

IV. REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 3 and claims 1, 12, 16 and 20 have been amended. The above amendments and the following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and objections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected or objected to claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to. Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by O'Flaherty et al. (US 6,275,824), hereinafter "O'Flaherty," in view of Williams (US Pub. 2003/0005331 A1), hereinafter "Williams." Claim 8 is rejected over O'Flaherty in view Williams and further in view of Scott et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0082996), hereinafter "Scott".

A. OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, the drawings were alleged to be not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) in that reference characters on figures 1 and 3 are handwritten. Corrected drawings have been requested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully respond that fully compliant, formal drawings (i.e., including machine-generated reference characters throughout) were previously transmitted to the Patent Office on January 8, 2002. Evidence thereof was submitted with a prior amendment as copies of a post marked submittal card (i.e., with January 28, 2002 PTO received stamp thereon) and a Certified Transmittal of Formal Drawings, signed on January 8, 2002, by Applicants' representatives. In addition, in response to the Office's statement that the submitted drawings could not be found, Applicants herein attach a copy of the previously submitted drawings. Accordingly, Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the drawings for the application are currently fully compliant.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 and 9-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over O'Flaherty in view of Williams, Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Office do not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to newly amended independent claims 1, 12, 16 and 20, Applicants submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest concealing confidential details in received data while allowing an analysis to be performed that is based on the confidential details. This amendment is supported, for example, in page 12, line 15 through page 13, line 11 of the original specification. In contrast, O'Flaherty discloses two dataviews for viewing its data, a standard view and a priveleged view. In the

standard view, the viewer is not allowed any access to personal information, while in the privileged view, the view can view, analyse and alter all information. Col. 8, lines 10-61. To this extent, O’Flaherty teaches that a viewer can either view and analyse personal information or can do neither, but cannot analyse the personal information without viewing it.

In contrast, the claimed invention includes “...concealing confidential details in received data while allowing an analysis to be performed that is based on the confidential details.” Claim 1. As such, the concealing of the confidential details in received data of the claimed invention does not also prohibit analysis based on the confidential details as does the standard view of O’Flaherty, but rather allows an analysis to be performed that is based on the confidential details while concealing the confidential details, themselves. Thus, concealing of confidential details as included in the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the standard view of O’Flaherty. Williams does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With further respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references also fail to teach or suggest, “a data update system for periodically automatically examining stored data to identify and expose any confidential details that have become non-confidential details”, as in claim 1. To the contrary, the passage of O’Flaherty that the Office cites in support of its assertion to the contrary teaches only the ability for a consumer to electively specify whether or not consumer’s personal information may be accessed by others. This solely leaves sharing of personal information as a opt in/opt out type of decision by a consumer, and, as such, is not done automatically. In view of the foregoing, O’Flaherty does not disclose the type of data confidentiality system and data update system that is found in the current

invention. Neither Williams nor Scott remedies this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-11 are dependent upon claim 1, claims 13-15 are dependent upon claim 12, claims 17-19 are dependent upon claim 16 and claims 21-24 are dependent upon claim 20.

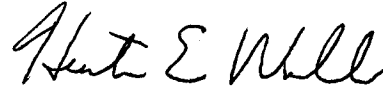
Applicants submit that those dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons stated above, as well as for their own additional features.

VI. CONCLUSION

In addition to the above arguments, Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. Additionally, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's combinations and modifications of the various references or the motives cited for such combinations and modifications. These features and the appropriateness of the Office's combinations and modifications have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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